

Appl. No. : 554,288
Filed : January 09, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-9 were previously cancelled.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of continuous metering of bulk material from a source container with a rotary-vane feeder and a metering device fed by the rotary-vane feeder, comprising:

setting a feed rate for the rotary-vane feeder; and
adjusting controlling a discharge rate of the metering device to a value that is lower than the feed rate of the preceding rotary-vane feeder, so that return feed from the rotary-vane feeder to the source container takes place wherein said controlling takes into account a filling state of an intermediate container between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device so as to maintain the intermediate container at a substantially constant filling height and wherein the metering device comprises a rotor scale; and
altering a speed of rotation of the metering device to regulate discharge of the metering device.

11. (Cancelled) 1

12. (Cancelled) 1

13. (Cancelled) 1

Claims 14-16 were previously cancelled.

14-16 9/17/03

19. (Currently Amended) A method of continuous metering of bulk material from a source container with a rotary-vane feeder and a metering device fed by the rotary-vane feeder, comprising:

setting a feed rate for the rotary-vane feeder; and

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adjusting controlling a discharge rate of the metering device to a value that is lower than the feed rate of the preceding rotary-vane feeder in accordance with a filling state of an intermediate container arranged between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device, so that return feed from the rotary-vane feeder to the source container takes place so as to maintain the intermediate container at a substantially constant filling height.

20. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein said controlling takes into account a filling state of an intermediate container between the rotary-vane feeder and the metering device.

21. (New) The method of Claim 19, further comprising altering a speed of rotation of the metering device to regulate discharge of the metering device.

22. (New) The method of Claim 19, further comprising using a pneumatic feed, and altering at least one of an air amount and an air speed to regulate discharge of the metering device.